Provision for charging interest on delayed payment of duty, imposition of mandatory penalty equal to the central excise duty evaded and introduction of self assessment and selective audit are some of the legislative changes aimed at discouraging evasion of cenral excise duty by manufacturers.

[English]

Panel for Disinvestment

5724. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Disinvestment Commission is likely to study and suggest steps to improve the working of sick public sector units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps being taken to make sick units viable?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Sick Public Sector Industrial units are referred to BIFR for formulation of their revival/rehabilitation packages. In respect of other loss making units, enterprises specific measures are taken by the concerned management in consultation with the administrative Ministries to improve their efficiency, productivity and profitability.

Investment made by STC in Sugar Deals

5725. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of funds invested by State Trading Corporation in sugar deals during each of the last three years;

(b) the achievements made by STC thereof; and

(c) the projections made or plan formulated by STC for sale/export of sugar during 1996-97 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No investments were made by STC on sugar business during the last thre years. L/C limits were, however, used by the Corporation for import of sugar.

(b) The total imports and exports of sugar made through STC during the last 3 years were as follows :

Import	(Quantity MTS)	
1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
—	—	4,70,685
Export		
13,585	46,565	35,000

(c) No projection has been fomulated by STC for import export of sugar during 1996-97. STC undertakes these operations on the authorisations of the Government.

[Translation]

National Renewal Fund

5726. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up National Renewal Fund to give assistance for training of workers; and

(b) if so, the number of personnels belonging to general category, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes trained so far separately ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to the information available from the nodal agencies that have set up Employees Assistance Centres for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers with the assistance from the National Renewal Fund, 11,752 workers have availed of retraining as on 31st July, 1996. The details of number of workers belonging to general category, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not centrally maintained.

[English]

Regional Centre for Design and Technical Development

5727. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the name and location of each regional centre for design and technical development;

(b) the total number of designs dealt with in each regional centre during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) the percentage of designs accepted by the trade during the above period;

(d) whether any evaluation of technical wings of these centres has been made;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The location of Regional Design & Technical Development Centre run by the Government is as under :

1. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi.
2. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, (Design Wing), Churct Street, Bangalore.
3. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, (Technical Wing), Victoria Road, Bangalore.

4. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Old Court House Street, Calcutta.

5. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Govindpura, Bhopal.

6. Design and Technical Training Centre, 3nd Floor, Sitaram Mill Compound, Lower Parel, Mumbai.

(b) and (c). The total number of design developed and the percentage of design accepted by the trade during 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

	Desing Developed	
	1994-95	1995-96
1. Regional Design & Technical Developemnt Centre, New Delhi.	17 (50.0%)	368 (58.0%)
2. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Calcutta.	426 (84.5%)	612 (96.2%)
3. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre (Design wing), Bangalore.	166 (57.8%)	192 (31.3%)
4. Regional Design & Technical Development Centre, Bhopal.	44 (20.0%)	nil

(Figures in brackets indicate the % of design accepted by the trade).

Victoria Road Centre at Bangalore is a technical wing and Design Training Centre at Mumbai has yet to start functioning.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The evaluation of technical wing has not been made so far owing to the fact that the technical wings of the Regional Design and Technical Development Centres are functioning according to the Action Plans formulated by the Government.

[Translation]

Coal Stock Yards

5728. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number and locations where the coal stock-yards have been set up in the country, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) the norms adopted for setting up coal stock yards; and

(c) the details of new coal yards to be set up in near future, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). 11 Stockyards are beign presently operated by CIL in various States as mentioned below :

West Bengal	6
Orissa	2
Madhya Pradesh	2
Uttar Pradesh	1

These stockyards are to be closed after disposal of residual stocks. Under the current policy, the responsibility for setting up and managing new stockyards vests with the respective State Governments. Coal Companies offer coal for these stockyards in accordance with the sponsorships received from the State Governments.

[English]

Trade with Bangladesh

5729. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the trade between India and Bangladesl has been on increase since 1990 through Petrapole-chec post on the Indo-Bangladesh Border;

(b) if so, the value of trade transacted and revenue earned during each of the last three years, item-wise;

(c) whether infrastructural deficiencies on Indian side of the border impede the export growth from the above check-post;

(d) if so, the details thereof.

(e) whether out of these deficiencies one cause is transport congestion at the N.H. 35 and the road at Changrabandha in Coochbehar has also become unusable; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Value of total trade between the two countries during the last three years transacted through Petrapole Land Customs Station is given below :

(Value in Rs. crore/provisional)

Year	Total Trade
1993-94	957.70
1994-95	1409.13
1995-96	1739.59

Source : DGCI & S.